



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Garey Bies
1ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**Written Testimony of Representative Garey Bies
Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs
Assembly Bill 493 – Park Fees for Full-Time Military Personnel**

Good afternoon Chairman Hilgenberg and committee members, I appreciate the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of Assembly Bill 493, relating to vehicle admission receipt fees for certain members of the armed forces.

Our country's military makes great sacrifices on our behalf. Just yesterday on the floor of the Assembly and Senate we honored two heroes, Lance Corporal Dean Opicka and Staff Sergeant Jeremy Vrooman, who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation's safety and freedom. We owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

Serving our nation in the military is a challenging endeavor. Members of our military face many hardships, including extended periods away from home and away from families while on deployment. The stresses that are placed upon our brave servicemen and women are great and opportunities for relief are all too rare.

Assembly Bill 493 is an opportunity to provide some relief to our service men and women. This legislation allows men and women, on active military service stationed in Wisconsin, to qualify for resident admission rates to the Wisconsin State Park system, regardless of whether they are normally full-time residents of this state.

The men and women that serve our nation in the military deserve much from us as thanks. When a Lieutenant in the United States Coast Guard stationed in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin contacted me and requested that I author this legislation, I agreed that it was a good idea.

This legislation is just a small thing we can do for the members of our military because in addition to serving our country, active military stationed in our communities are members of our local communities. They contribute as residents just like the rest of us. Assembly Bill 493 is just one way we can acknowledge both their service to our country and the contribution they make to our communities as neighbors.

I respectfully request your support of Assembly Bill 493 in committee.

Thank you.

First for Wisconsin!

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